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CHRISTMAS
WREATH
CUMBER

WARREN F. KELLOGG.

PUBLISHER.

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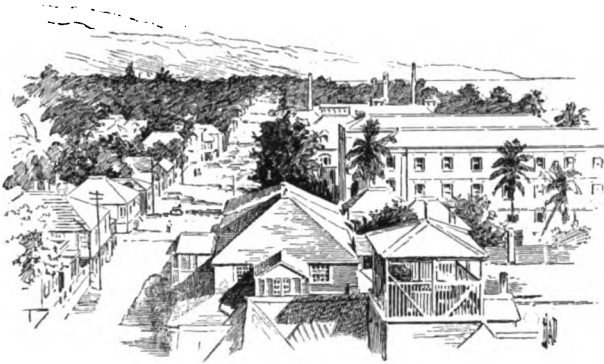
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25c. A NUMBER

A NEW ENGLAND FARMER IN JAMAICA.

By David Buffum.



STREET IN KINGSTON.

FROM the earliest days, a glamour of romance and an atmosphere of fiction have hung over the West India Islands. Though they lie, as it were, at our very doors, very few of our people know anything about them; the information they receive is for the most part meagre and unreliable, and the mental pictures they make are often the furthest possible removed from the truth. It is my purpose in this article to give a true, although brief, description of one of the fairest and best of the West Indies, the island of Jamaica. In order to present the matter more clearly, I shall take up separately the physical features of the island, its agriculture and its population; and as the past history of Jamaica has a precise bearing upon its present status, I will first give a brief outline of that from the discovery of the island by Columbus until the present time.

The very mountainous character of the island caused Columbus, when he first saw it, to liken it to a crumpled piece of paper. Viewed from the sea, with its great ranges of mountains piercing the clouds, it does not seem possible that it can contain much rich or arable land. But it did not take the Spaniards long to discover that in the alluvial valleys between the mountains and on the plains which border the

coast were thousands of acres of the richest soil, a soil for the most part underlaid with limestone, like the famous blue-grass region of Kentucky, the fertility of which was almost inexhaustible. Not only that, but the sides of the mountains also, when not too steep for cultivation, were of unusual richness.

The island was rapidly taken up by colonists, and soon became one of the wealthiest colonies of Spain. Thousands of slaves were imported to cultivate the great estates; and the expensive stone mansions in which the luxurious planters



A SUBURBAN RESIDENCE.



HOTEL RIO COBRE.

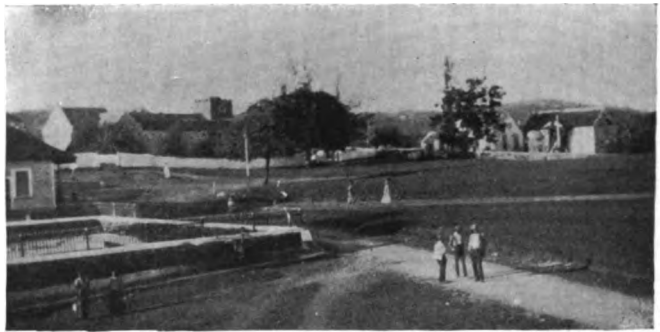
dwelt can still be seen in ruins in every part of the island. Then England decided that she would like to own this fair domain; and consequently, after the fashion of those times, an expedition was sent out to take it.

After a slight resistance, the Spaniards capitulated; and in 1670, by the treaty of Madrid, Jamaica was formally ceded to the English government.

The reign of prosperity continued undisturbed. Fine carriage-roads were built on the coast; the bridle-roads in the interior were improved; new houses were erected; and the land was all cultivated—even the rough mountain lands

produced sugar; and to such proportions did this industry grow, that an almost unbroken belt of sugar estates encircled the island. The very acme of prosperity was reached.

Then came a change. For many years philanthropists in England had been disturbed by the condition of the negro slaves. Doubtless the laboring classes at home were worse off, all things considered, than the negroes; for their wages were extremely low, and the greater rigor of the climate made a much larger sum necessary for their support. But they were only slaves in substance, while the



MANDEVILLE SQUARE.

negroes were slaves in name as well. So the slaves in the British West Indies were set free.

To the newly emancipated slave, ignorant and long accustomed to compulsory labor, freedom meant only one thing, and that was immunity from work. He became a squatter on the rough lands of the interior, a vagrant, a beggar, always poor to the last degree; but he would not work. Years have modified this condition of things; but from that day the prosperity of Jamaica declined. The loose and dissolute habits of living in which the white men usually indulged, combined with the soft tropical climate, had long since earned for the island its title of "the white man's grave." The income from the plantations no longer offset the disadvantages of a residence upon them; and a steady emigration back to the mother-country began, which continued to within a very few years of the present time. The estates were either managed by hired superintendents or drifted



CUTTING SUGAR-CANE.

of the interior being brought into requisition. The rich plains on the coast still

into the hands of the people of mixed blood.

But the sudden emancipation of slaves, in whatever country, has always been followed by a period of depression similar to that through which Jamaica has passed; and if the country be naturally a good one, it will eventually recover. There is no question now that a period of greater prosperity has begun in Jamaica. East Indian coolies have been imported to take the place of the slaves, and those who have learned how to manage the free negro have little trouble on the score of labor.

Land has appreciated in value; and the Jamaica railroad, which is owned by an American syndicate, has given to the interior districts the advantages of transportation which were formerly enjoyed only by the dwellers on the coast. The coffee and fruit industries have increased very rapidly within the last ten years, and it is worthy of note

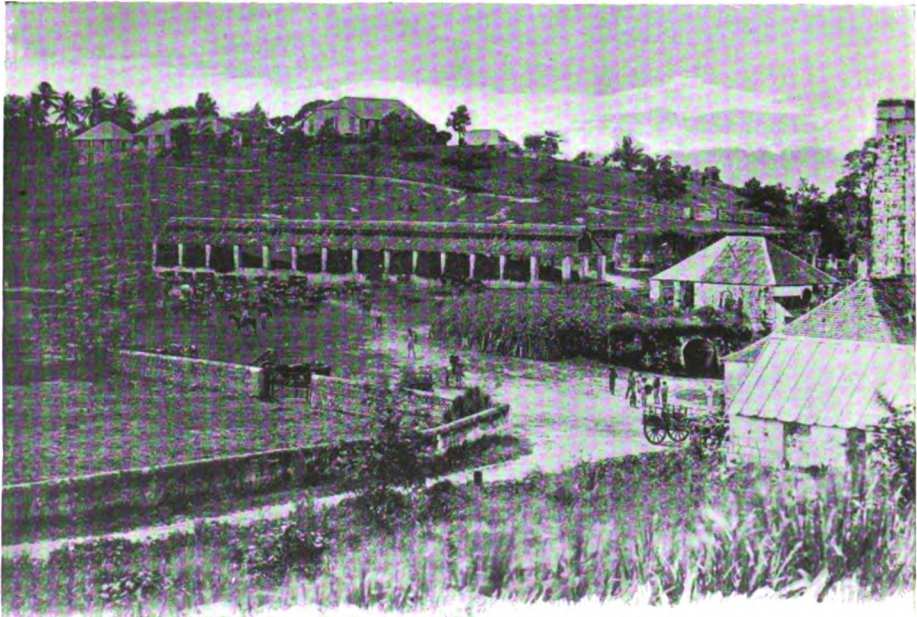
that the largest plantation on the island is owned by Americans.

The seaports of Jamaica, though large quantities of tropical products are



A TYPICAL JAMAICAN.

shipped from nearly every one, are all of small size except Kingston, the capital of the island. This city, which is situated on the southern coast near the east end of the island, numbers some forty thousand inhabitants, is regularly laid out, lighted by



PART OF A SUGAR ESTATE.



A. W. PRESTON.

electricity, and has a good street railroad. Its harbor is one of the finest in the world, and it has always been the chief shipping point on the island. Some idea of the amount of business done can be had by visiting the wharves, the Colonial Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia. The large number of clerks in the former bank, and the crowds of people constantly



CAPTAIN JESSE H. FREEMAN.

going in and out, would certainly surprise a stranger.

The first impression one gets on landing in Kingston is that it is hot; the second, that there are no white people in the town. The first is never modified to any great extent; for Kingston, though a healthy town, is one of the hottest places on the island. Still, there is always a sea-breeze, and the mercury in the shade rarely reaches ninety degrees. As to the second, there are plenty of whites, but in proportion to the rest of the population, the number is so small that we notice but few in the street.

The city, though old, is unattractive and commonplace in its business section;



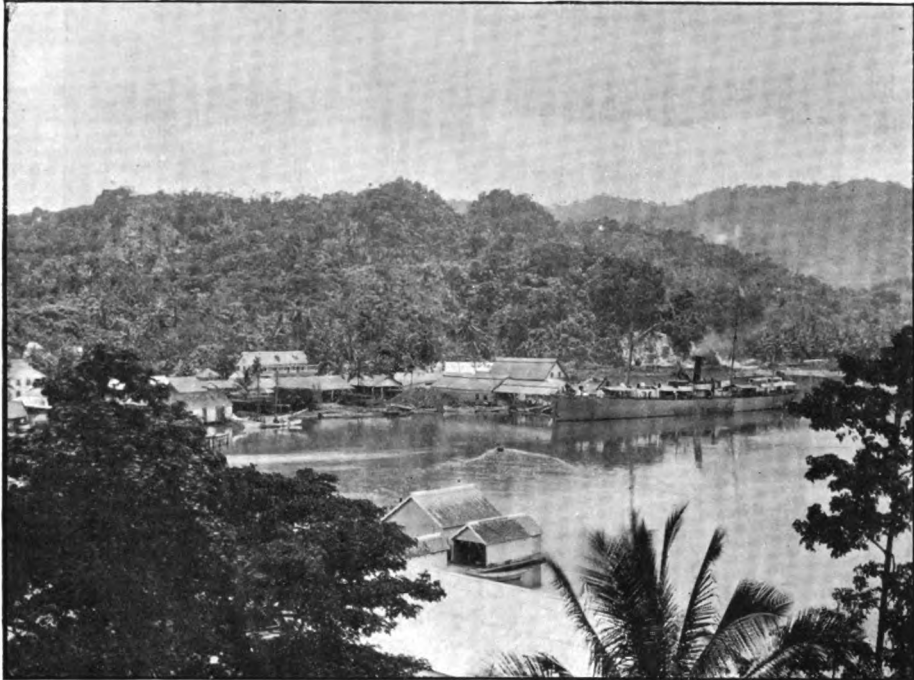
CAPTAIN L. D. BAKER.

but its suburbs are beautiful. Fine residences, each with an enclosing wall of brick or stone and surrounded by tropical plants and flowers, stretches of grass land dotted with grazing cattle and sheep, rich gardens and groves of orange, mango and cocoanut trees, greet the eye on every side.

It is in the suburbs that King's House, the seat of the colonial governor, stands. The present governor, Sir Henry Blake, is a most enterprising man, and much is due to his influence in the extension of the railway, the building of many new

and much needed bridges, and the erection of the large and comfortable Myrtle Bank Hotel, and the general improvement of the island. The spirit of improvement—the inception of what may be called

works, where the dye is extracted from logwood. Both of these were established through the instrumentality of Mr. T. L. Harvey, solicitor, one of the most public-spirited men on the island and a great



WHARVES, PORT ANTONIO.

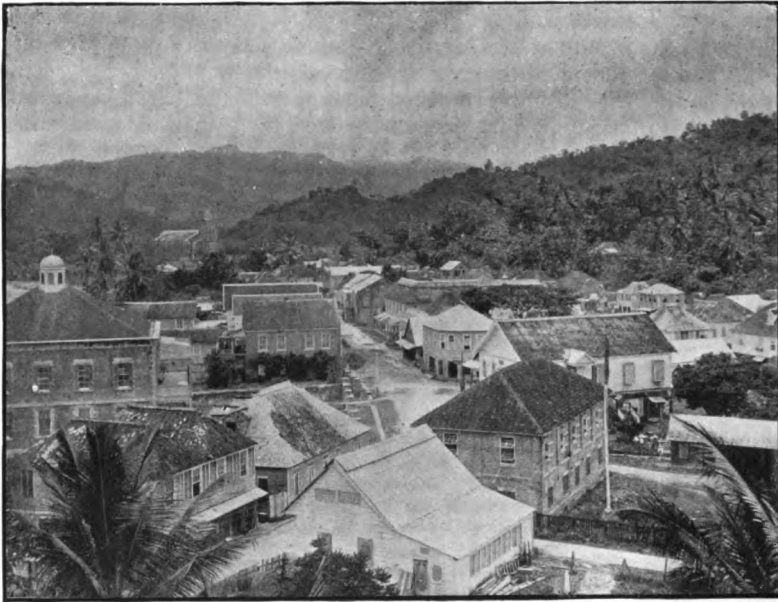
the new Jamaica—began with the administration of Sir Anthony and Lady Musgrave. No better man than Sir Henry could have been found to promote and keep alive this spirit; and his name and that of Lady Blake are mentioned with respect and affection throughout the island.

Apropos of the government of Jamaica, the courts are worthy of special mention. There are no better courts of law in the world; and a title to property guaranteed by the court can never be called in question.

A long stretch of almost perfectly level land extends northward from Kingston for many miles. On this level plain, about fifteen miles from Kingston, is Spanish-town, the old seat of government. Here is the new Rio Cobre Hotel, the best hotel on the island, and the new chemical

believer in the future of Jamaica. It may be said here that though many improvements have been made of late, the spirit of enterprise is still not as active in Jamaica as might be desired. With more men like Mr. Harvey, the island, with its many natural attractions and its equable climate, should become a popular winter resort. Mr. Harvey recognized the fact that good hotel accommodations are amongst the first requisites for that end; and the well-kept, comfortable Rio Cobre Hotel is always appreciated by tourists.

Of the inland towns, Mandeville is one of the best; and lying, as it does, some two thousand five hundred feet above the sea-level, the climate is cool and pleasant. Some Jamaicans think it is *too cool*; the visitor from the north is not apt to find it so. Here also is an excellent hotel, the



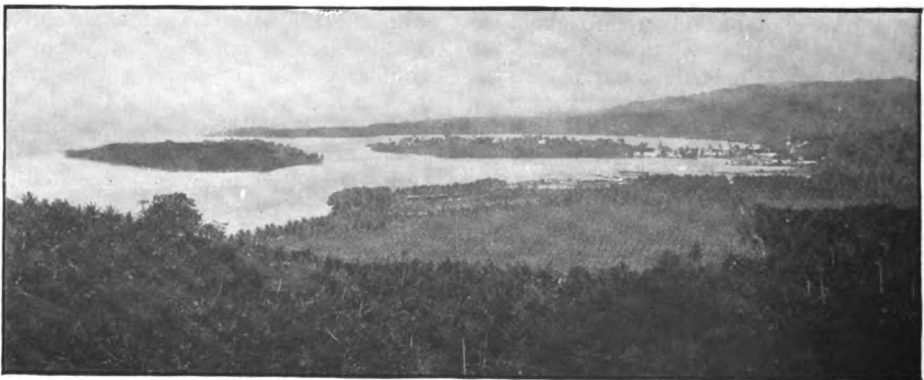
IN PORT ANTONIO.

Waverly, kept by an American, Mr. Merritt. Mandeville is in the centre of a fine coffee and grazing country. Mr. R. B. Braham, one of the leading planters and merchants of the island, has his headquarters here; and the plantation of Mr. Wynne, who came from England a few years ago and has grown rich in coffee-growing, is also in this district.

It is not possible here to describe in detail the various seaports. Montego Bay, the second town in size on the island, and Port Antonio, where the Boston Fruit Company has its headquarters and where

an immense shipment of bananas is constantly going on, are the most important.

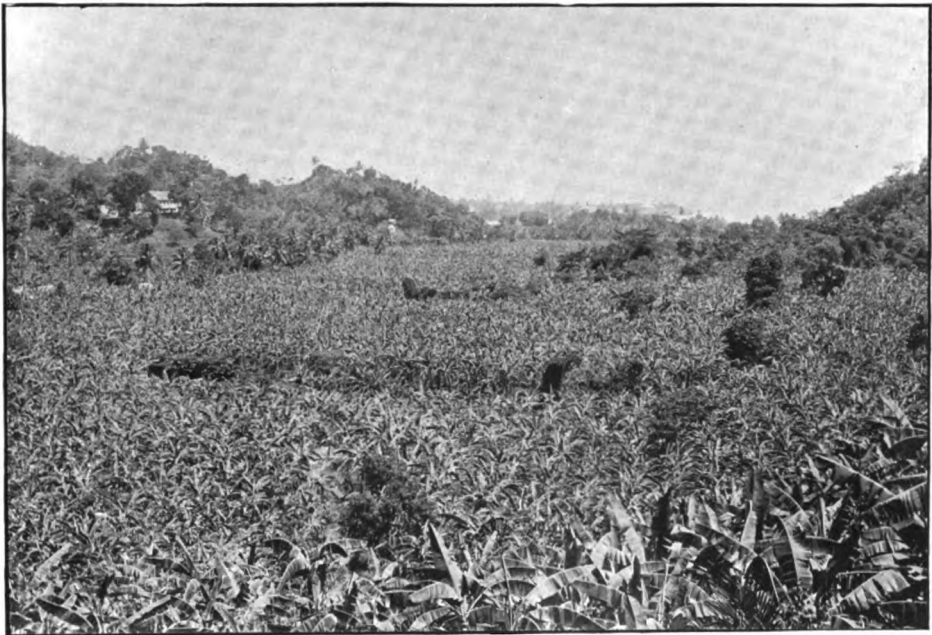
Jamaica is essentially an agricultural country. Rum and unrefined sugar are the only articles manufactured; and the latter industry is on the wane, as the margin of profit is very small. But on coffee, banana and cocoanut growing the profit is great, and they are all produced in immense quantities. Undoubtedly coffee-growing is the best of all these industries, not only because coffee is non-perishable and therefore easily transported, but because there is every indi-



A DISTANT VIEW OF PORT ANTONIO.

cation that the high prices which now rule will continue for many years. Moreover, on the high lands, which are best suited to coffee, the climate is cool and pleasant. As to the profits, the cost of producing a pound of coffee is from five to seven cents, while it sells readily at from sixteen to twenty-five cents. Strange as it may seem, the supply of coffee has never been equal to the demand, and the price has steadily appreciated for more than forty years. But the causes for this are not difficult to find. The rapid development of the United States and the

preparing it for market is probably unfamiliar to most of my readers, I will give a brief description of it. In starting a plantation, the young trees are usually set eight feet apart both ways, though some planters prefer to plant wider. Two years afterward there will be a sprinkling of coffee, and at the end of the third year a small crop, usually enough to pay running expenses. The fourth year brings a full crop; and the trees continue thereafter to bear for thirty or forty years, according to the soil on which they are planted.



A BANANA PLANTATION.

immigration of thousands of foreigners, all of whom received high wages and were therefore able to drink coffee and purchase luxuries to which they were hitherto unaccustomed, have kept the demand constantly increasing; while in the coffee-growing countries, the lack of labor, frequent political disturbances and heavy export taxes have kept the supply from increasing very rapidly. Fortunately for Jamaica, there is no export duty there, and under the cool system the planter can get all the labor he requires.

As the method of growing coffee and

The coffee berry, when ripe, is of a bright, purplish-red color, and is in appearance much like a cherry. The coffee kernels, like the cherry stones, are encased in the flesh of the fruit. Quite a process is necessary to prepare the coffee for market, but with the improved machinery now in use, it is not expensive. First, the berries are run through a "pulper," a machine which tears off most of the pulp from the kernel. They are then run into tanks filled with water, where they are frequently agitated to wash off what pulp may remain on them.

Then they are removed from the tanks and spread out in the sun on great platforms made of cement, and left there until thoroughly dry. These platforms are called "patios" or "barbecues,"—

The land in Jamaica, as I have already indicated, is of two distinct kinds,—the level plains which border the coast and the river courses, and the high, mountainous lands of the interior. At



A GRAZING FARM.

the former word being Spanish for courtyard, and the latter a term applied by the aborigines to the smooth places on which they dried their fish and fruits. At one side of each patio is a tight shed; and into this the coffee is swept in case of rain.

The coffee being thoroughly dry, it is removed from the patios. Up to this point the two kernels which form the "stone," so to speak, of the berry, and which lie with their flat surfaces face to face, are surrounded by the horny covering. To remove this the coffee is run through a mill properly constructed for the purpose. It is then ready for market, though it is better to sort it before shipping, as a better price can thus be realized. This sorting, which grades the kernels according to size, is done by a very simple machine, quite similar to that in use by the wholesale dealers in our own country.

one time nearly all of the level land was devoted to sugar. Now, in many sections, the cane has been replaced by bananas.

It has been stated, upon good authority, that seventy-five per cent of the bananas used in the city of Boston are grown in Jamaica. It is my opinion that the proportion is still greater than this. Be that as it may, the banana business in Jamaica has grown to immense proportions. This growth is due chiefly to two things,—the substitution of steamers for sail vessels in transporting the fruit, and the constantly increasing consumption.

In its natural requirements the banana plant is totally different from the coffee tree; for while the latter flourishes in the cool mountain country, the former requires a hot climate, and being an extremely heavy feeder, will only grow in perfection on the rich plain land. It is true that bananas can be grown in any



BANANA TRANSPORTATION OVERLAND.

part of the island, and the small patches of the peasantry are often seen on steep hillsides and far in the interior. But this fruit is generally small and inferior, and the plant itself does not attain its proper proportions. The large plantations of the white men are always on the flat lands.

It is of interest to Americans, as showing what can be done in tropical enterprises, to know that the largest banana plantations in Jamaica are owned by an American corporation, the Boston Fruit

Company. This company was formed in 1877 by Capt. Jesse H. Freeman, Capt. Lorenzo D. Baker, A. W. Preston and several other enterprising Boston men, for the purpose of growing bananas in Jamaica and shipping them to this country. Captain Baker was the leading spirit in the new enterprise and has stood at its head ever since, being its president and the manager of its tropical division; while Mr. Preston manages the Boston division. The capital of the new company was



RAFTING BANANAS.

\$200,000. Land was purchased, two steamers, the *Jesse H. Freeman* and the *Lorenzo D. Baker* were built for transporting the fruit, and operations were begun. This was the beginning of the great business which the company transacts to-day. The company has now

large additional number of cattle is kept on the grazing land which belongs to the company.

The steamships of the company number twelve in all, and ply between Port Antonio and the ports of Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. They are all

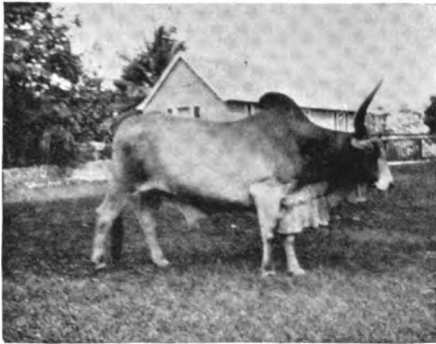


NEAR PORT ANTONIO.

a capital of \$500,000, with a surplus of \$1,000,000, owns 28,000 acres of land, and leases some 16,000 more, employs twelve steamships to carry the fruit to the United States, and annually ships about 3,000,000 bunches of bananas and 5,000,000 cocoanuts, besides considerable quantities of pimento (allspice), coffee and cocoa. The labor on the plantations is done by both negroes and East Indian coolies, some four hundred of the latter being employed and another importation of them being about to be made. Upward of six hundred mules are daily in harness to carry the fruit from the plantations to the ships, eight hundred head of working oxen are used for ploughing and other work, and a

iron vessels, and are built for speed, which is a very necessary point in transporting fruit. Until recently the carrying of passengers was a side issue; but two new vessels, the *Barnstable* and the *Brookline*, have just been added to the fleet, each possessing large and elegant passenger accommodations.

It was my privilege last summer to be the guest of Captain Baker for several days; and I rode with him on horseback through some of the immense banana fields. The perfect order and organization of everything connected with the business challenged my admiration. The plantations in cultivation number thirty-two; each of these has its superintendent, while a general superintendent



MYSORE BULL, SHETTLEWOOD PENN.

has charge of the whole. Private telephone lines connect each plantation with the president's office at Port Antonio, so that the whole business is practically always under his eye.

The manner of planting bananas is as follows: After the land has been ploughed, which is done with a very large plough drawn by eight or ten oxen, the plants are set in straight rows ten to fifteen feet apart, according to the ideas of the planter, and about eight feet apart in the row. The plant attains a height of ten to fifteen feet, according to soil and cultivation. At the end of a year the first crop is ready for gathering. Each plant produces one bunch, — after which it is worthless and is cut down and left on the ground to rot. But new plants or

suckers are constantly coming up from the root, and three or four of these are allowed to grow. Thus, when the first plant is cut down another is nearly ready to bear, while one or two others are in different stages of growth. This process can be continued for about seven years, by which time the ground is usually so full of roots that it is necessary to plough it up and replant.

If carried on on a large scale, banana-growing pays handsomely. But as the price fluctuates much more than that of coffee, which varies very little, it has not the element of safety and certainty that the latter possesses.

There are many fine cocoanut groves, or "walks," as they are called, on the island; but owing to the long time necessary to wait for the first crop, not as much has been done in cocoanut-growing as in other industries. The trees seldom bear until seven years old; but once in bearing, they continue for a hundred years, and are a veritable mine of wealth to their owners. A single tree produces on an average a hundred nuts a year, and these sell at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per hundred. There is no fixed season for blossoming and fruiting; on the same tree, blossoms, green fruit and ripe fruit can always be seen.

Cocoanut trees like sea air and do not do well if planted too far from the coast.



WATERING CATTLE.



TOM'S RIVER BRIDGE.

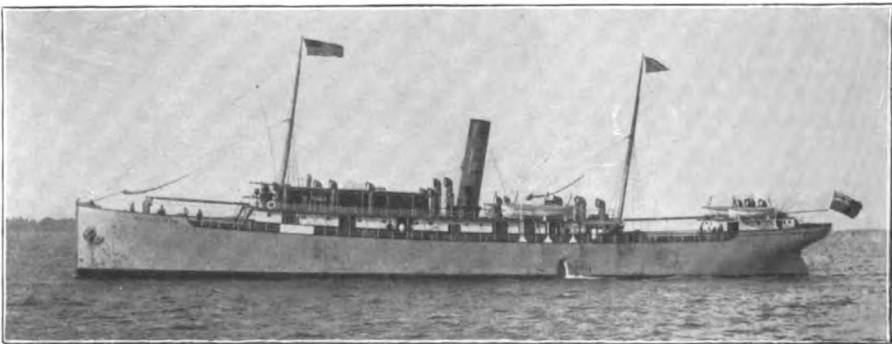
But they flourish either on the hillsides or on the plains; and though, like nearly all plants, they do best on good land, they do not require so rich a soil as bananas. After the first few years they need no cultivation, and as soon as their tops are out of reach, the land on which they grow can be put into grass and pastured.

Oranges grow in perfection on the higher lands; but at present the price realized is too low to make it any object to extend the industry.

The keeping of live-stock is bound to play an important part in the agriculture of any country, whether tropical or otherwise. Horses, cattle and mules for work on the plantations, and beef and mutton for food, are as much a necessity in Jamaica as anywhere else. The idea possessed by many northern people, that but little meat is required in the tropics, is erroneous. The peasantry, to be sure, seldom eat it, for the simple reason that they cannot afford it. But the upper classes use it as freely as in the North, and personally I have never found that my appetite craved any less meat when in the tropics than when in New England.

All of the horses, the mules, the working oxen and the fresh meats used in Jamaica are produced there, and this necessitates an industry — stock-breeding — which pays handsomely and which, in many of its features, is as attractive as any on the island.

The stock farms, or "penns," as they are commonly called, of Jamaica usually comprise from five hundred to one thousand acres of grass-land, with perhaps as much more of wood-land and "ruinate" or small trees and bushes. The grass-land is subdivided into large fields, and



STEAMSHIP "BROOKLINE."

comprises guinea grass and "common pasture,"—the latter being pimento grass if on the high lands, and Bahama grass if on the low, coast lands. Guinea grass, which flourishes in either locality, is by far the more valuable, and grows so luxuriantly that a field of it will keep double the number of cattle that the field would in any other grass. It is a perennial, coarse and rank in appearance, but very rich and fattening; and all kinds of stock except sheep are very fond of it. If allowed to grow to its full height, which rarely occurs, it is some six feet tall, and its seed-top is white, feathery and plume-like.

The horses of Jamaica are generally small, but clean and wiry in appearance, of wonderful endurance, and show plainly their thorough blood. The foundation of the breed was the Narragansett pacer, crossed with the English thoroughbred, and the tendency to pace is still strong in many individuals. The best sires now on the island are thoroughbreds, and some very good race-horses are produced. It costs about \$35 to raise a three-year-old horse, while such sell readily at from \$75 to \$150 per head, according to size and appearance. These prices, of course, apply to common stock. Horses which are of fair size and strictly thoroughbred bring much more. Mules sell at about the same price as horses, and the demand for them is constant.

Of cattle there are many breeds,—Herefords, Ayrshires, Devons, Short-horns and East Indians all being well represented. They are bred for working oxen and for beef, milking qualities being little considered. Four-year-old steers broken to the yoke bring from \$100 to \$150 per pair, while the cost of raising is about \$35 per head. The East Indian or Hindoo cattle, however, bring a much higher price, as from their quickness, endurance and ability to stand the heat they are the best of all breeds for a hot country. These cattle were first brought to Jamaica from Bombay, India, by the Hon. Evelyn Ellis, whose magnificent grazing farm, "Shettlewood Penn," is one of the show places of the island. They are of two distinct strains or families, the Mysore and the Kattewar. The

former are the famous "carriage cattle" of the East, and are capable of being driven at the rate of six or even eight miles an hour. They trot almost as naturally as horses, and are of a high-strung, nervous temperament. In the West Indies, where they are used only for draught, they are usually crossed with the Kattewar, which is a slower and heavier strain, and the result is a class of working oxen as near perfect as can be found for the tropics,—active, enduring and adapted to the climate.

Not much attention is paid to sheep husbandry in Jamaica, and the sheep of the island do not compare favorably with the other live-stock. A better breed is much needed. Still the price of dressed mutton is about twice as high as in the United States; and with better stock and attention, there is no reason why sheep-raising should not pay as well as cattle or horses.

Whatever may be said of the natural resources of a country, however great may be its agricultural or other possibilities, the character of its people is a factor which those proposing to do business in it are bound to consider. Thus, the beautiful island of Hayti, probably the richest of all the West India Islands, has a population and government which practically bar any sensible man from engaging in any enterprise within its borders; and the same objection, perhaps in less degree, holds good with regard to many other countries whose natural resources would otherwise attract capital and enterprise.

We can say without fear of contradiction that the government of Jamaica is good and well administered. This is true of nearly all British colonies. But what of the people? Roughly speaking, the population may be divided into three classes: the whites, the colored or people of mixed blood, and the blacks or negroes (the term "colored" as used in the West Indies never means negro; it always refers to the mixed race). To these may also be added the East Indian or Hindoo coolies, as there are now a great many on the island.

Of these the whites are, of course, the dominant class. The officers of the

army and navy, resident magistrates, judges, chiefs of police, and rectors of the English Church are chiefly white men. Also, scattered about on the island are many white planters and stock breeders, and these constitute a good class, — hospitable, courteous and much more apt to be men of education and culture than the agriculturists of our own country. But the whites are so vastly outnumbered by the blacks, that a stranger on the island, whether in town or country, sees very few of them. According to the census, out of a total population of six hundred thousand only five thousand are of pure Caucasian stock; though since the purchase of the Jamaica railroad by an American syndicate this number has been augmented somewhat.

The negroes are by far the largest class. They are still the chief laborers on the island, though the constant importation of coolies from India and the ambition of the black man to become a landholder are working quite a change. Many landowners have sold small tracts to the negroes, and their huts and little garden patches are thickly sprinkled all over the island. The tendency, of course, is to sell the roughest lands to the negroes, reserving the best arable lands, and consequently the peasant landholders are more plentiful in the mountains than in the valleys and lowlands. But the peasant's wants are so easily supplied that he is not over-anxious for work on the neighboring plantations; and if he become "forehanded" enough to own a donkey and a few goats and pigs, his ambition is fully satisfied. The instincts of the primitive man being still strong within him, he throws most of the work of tilling his little patch upon his wife and daughters; and the fact that they are strong and well able to do hard labor does not lessen our feeling of disgust as we see him lazily smoking his pipe or sleeping in the sun while his women are hoeing his bananas and yams. There is an excellent free-school system on the island, and the children of the black man can thus receive an education. But in this, as in other respects, the capacity of the Jamaica negro for civilization appears to be limited, and the children rarely master

more than the rudiments of education. There are, of course, many exceptions, some black men being bright, well informed and industrious; but I am speaking of the general rule.

Any account of the Jamaica peasantry would be incomplete without allusion to a very peculiar feature among them — obeeah or voodooism. This is a relic of savagery, being a species of idol worship; and neither the efforts of the government, which strictly forbids its practice, nor the influence of the church, which has labored faithfully against it, have yet been able to keep it wholly in check. It is very difficult to define this curious superstition, and I doubt whether the negroes themselves really understand it. Their chief deity is the "Roaring Calf" or "Chief of the Duppies" — a duppy being a spirit or ghost. The duppies are of two kinds, good and evil; but both seem to be equally feared, and there are many spots on the island supposed to be the haunts of duppies, which nothing in the world could induce a negro to visit after dark. At one time obeeah became so shockingly prevalent, and so cruel and horrible were some of its rites, that the obee-men or priests were hanged if caught practising their craft. At present flogging is the punishment prescribed for them; and, strange as it may seem, the latter punishment has been far more efficacious in checking the evil than the former. I may add that the cannibalism of Hayti, of which we hear occasional reports, is in connection with obeeah, the victim being first sacrificed to the Roaring Calf and his duppies.

In view of facts like this, we may well wonder whether the negro race in Jamaica, in its present generation at least, is really capable of any great enlightenment. The elements of barbarism, firmly fixed in the negro nature by ages of usage in his native Africa, are not easily got rid of; and civilization, in its true sense, is not a thing which can be attained at a bound. It is worthy of remark that, while black men in Jamaica sometimes attain education, position and wealth, they are not nearly so apt to do so as those of mixed blood. It is the blood of the Caucasian which gives

brains, ambition and the instincts of civilization. When I have been asked what is the strongest factor in the elevation of the black man, I have been obliged to reply: "A cross with the Caucasian."

But laying aside ethnological questions, which it is not my purpose to discuss here, let us take a glance at the East Indian coolies. These people, with their straight black hair, clean-cut features and lithe, slender figures, are a striking contrast to the negroes,—whom, by the way, they heartily despise, and with whom they persistently decline to unite in marriage. Many of the men are good-looking, and some of the children and young girls are decidedly pretty. But, as is the case with all eastern races, they mature early; and generally all traces of beauty in the females are gone before they are thirty years of age. They are an industrious people, not so strong physically as the negroes, but more reliable in many respects, and have given such satisfaction as servants and laborers, that fresh importations are constantly being made. Their children are bright and quick to learn; but as nearly all coolies expect to return eventually to their native country, the question of their value as permanent citizens has been little considered.

In the main, the peasant classes of Jamaica are law-abiding and submissive. The colonial government recognizes the necessity of keeping all these diverse elements in absolute subjection; and its strong arm is felt throughout the island. Every country village has its constabulary, and the uniformed policemen are seen in the rural districts as in the cities and towns; and in spite of the vast number of semi-civilized inhabitants, I believe life and property to be as safe in Jamaica as in our own country.

While speaking of the people of Jamaica, I cannot forbear referring to the

many gentlemen whose kindly courtesy was extended to me while in Jamaica, and who did so much to make my stay a pleasant one. I cannot here mention their names, but should they ever see these pages I trust they will accept my renewed thanks.

I have not dwelt upon the natural beauties of Jamaica. It may be truthfully said that there are few spots on the globe more beautiful than some parts of this island. The wonderfully blue waters that wash its shores; the stretches of grass-land, alternated with tropical foliage of a vivid green never seen in northern latitudes; the background of mountains whose tops are lost in the clouds, and over all the tropical sky, with its peculiarly soft and voluptuous coloring,—all these combine to form a picture of such exquisite loveliness, that they certainly are worthy of a special description. But my purpose here is to point out the possibilities of the country to those who have not found the income from a New England farm sufficient for the ambitions and needs of these times. For many years the great West, with its teeming possibilities, has received the overflow from the East,—those whose ambition or unrest sought a larger and better field. But the industries of the West are rapidly being pushed nearer and nearer to the limits of a profitable increase, and hereafter the "star of empire" will not take its way westward with that unerring certainty that it has in the past. Already the attention of our people is being turned toward the South, and even transcends the boundaries of our nation. From present indications, the countries which are destined to receive much of the overflow from the Eastern States are Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. I believe that Jamaica, with a good government, healthy, fertile and beautiful, will come in for her full share.

